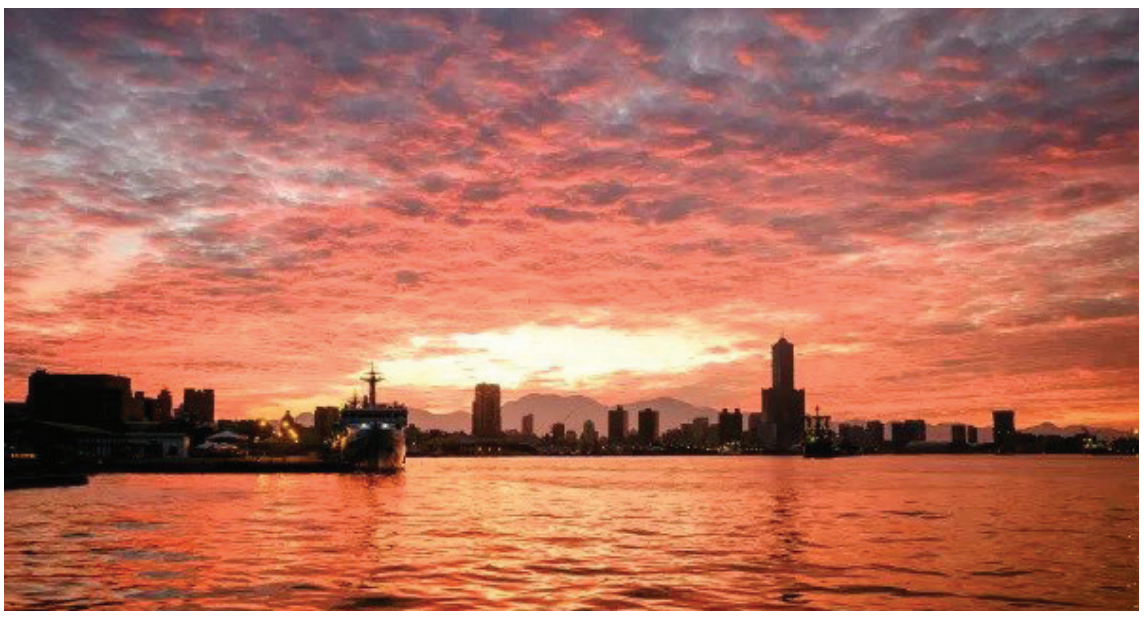
The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXXII, No. 2 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 | middleburycampus.com

NEW MIDDLEBURY SCHOOL IN TAIWAN TO BEGIN SPRING 2024



YU-JHENG FANG / COURTESY PHOTO

The sun rises over Kaohsiung, the port city where Middlebury's new school will open in spring 2024.

By COLE CHAUDHARI and CHARLIE KEOHANE
Copy Editor and Editor at Large

Middlebury will add another C.V. Starr School Abroad school to the map this spring, bridging the gap between Vermont and Taiwan. Students will have the opportunity to study at National Sun Yat-sen University in Kaohsiung, a port city in southern Taiwan with over 2.7 million residents.

Preliminary planning for a new school in Taiwan began last fall, according to Bill Mayers, assistant director of International Programs at Middlebury. Following its closure in 2020 due to Covid-19, the Middlebury School in China reopened in fall 2023, and for six students enrolled in Beijing.

"Last year, we allowed students to go to Taiwan. Although we couldn't send students to our program [in China], students had been studying Chinese and investing in their education, so we did let them go abroad to Taiwan on other programs," Mayers told The Campus.

He explained that his office visited five universities in Taiwan last winter to explore the opportunities. They landed on National Sun Yat-sen University, a partnership that will allow Middlebury to run a fully immersive program.

National Sun Yat-sen University enrolls approximately 10,000 students a year and regularly ranks in the top ten Taiwanese universities. All study abroad students are required to enroll in a one-on-one content-based tutorial and an area studies course, as well as two elective courses.

While students will take part in a rigorous academic program, it was also important to Mayers that the location offers a vast array of extracurricular activities.

"That's always a high priority for us but we know that students when they study abroad, the academics are important — that's where a lot of learning happens — but it's not where the most important learning happens when students study abroad, honestly. It's living wherever they are living," he said.

Following recent revitalization of the downtown and port areas in Kaohsiung, the city now has cultural and artistic venues for students to experience, including a number of large night markets. Mayers added that Kaohsiung is also home to hiking opportunities, giving students a taste of life beyond the city. As part of the program, Middlebury students will go on a long weekend trip outside of the city to experience other areas of the country.

Mayers mentioned that Taipei, the largest city on the island, was considered as a potential location for a Middlebury study abroad program, but was ultimately not chosen because of the higher density of English speakers in the area.

Lucy Patton '25 will be attending National Sun Yat-sen University as a study abroad student in the spring, and welcomes the opportunity for greater immersion in the new program.

"I am excited about the challenge that taking classes entirely in Chinese poses," Patton said. She added that

Continued on Page 2

LOCAL

TAM Trek sees record sign-ups, altered course in its 20th year

By EMILY HOGAN
Local Editor

Middlebury students, Vermont locals and out-of-state runners all convened in Wright Park at the start — and finish — line of the 20th annual TAM Trek this past Sunday, Sept. 17.

The event was organized by the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT), a volunteer group that helps with finances, educational, conservation and trail maintenance efforts, and it runs along the Trail Around Middlebury, or as you more likely know it, the TAM.

The 20th anniversary of the TAM Trek witnessed a remarkable surge in registrations, setting a new record of participants, according to an email sent to registrants of the race. By the last day of registration, Sept. 15, the race had around 250 registrants, according to MALT Board Member Erik Remsen.

The TAM Trek includes four different race options: the full 19 mile circumnavigation of the TAM, a 10k, 5k and two-mile

Continued on Page 5

EMILY HOGAN / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The TAM Trek followed the Trail Around Middlebury, which passes through fields, forests and four different towns.

ARTS & CULTURE

Flipturn band rocks McCullough lawn

By REBECCA DORIAN
Contributing Writer

Anyone near McCullough lawn on Friday night undoubtedly heard echoes of Middlebury's most recent fall concert. Students congregated to watch indie rock band Flipturn and opener Joseph Biss take the stage and deliver energetic, dynamic performances.

A large crowd of students showed up for the concert put on by WRMC, Middlebury College's radio station, and the Middlebury College Activities Board, bringing infectious energy that lasted throughout the entire show. Many students were excited to start the year with a performance from such a well-known indie rock band, particularly after a series of rap concerts in the past couple of years.

Self-described "psychedelic folk" musician Joseph Biss kicked off the night by delivering a unique acoustic set. He began with mellow, earnest spoken word poetry, followed by a set of medieval-esque ballads, both of which were in stark contrast to the main act that followed. The crowd responded to Biss's quirky lyrics and charismatic persona.

Flipturn eventually took the stage just before 9 p.m., performing with an intensity rarely found on their mellow albums. What started as a group of teenagers in Jacksonville, Fla. in 2015 has grown to become a nationwide success. Last year, the band released their debut full-length album, "Shadowglow," which has received widespread praise and recognition. While Shadowglow is the first complete album that the group has released, they have been putting out singles and EPs since 2017. It was a treat to see them perform in a relatively small setting, as they will be playing multiple nights in large venues across the west coast during their upcoming tour.

Frontman Dillon Basse and bassist Madeline Jarman spearheaded the band's sensational stage presence. Basse's smooth voice soared across McCullough lawn as he belted at the climax of almost every song, while Jarman jumped, headbanged and danced throughout the set. Guitarists Tristan Duncan and Mitch Fountain and drummer Devon Vonbalson didn't miss a beat either, commanding attention even from the back of the stage.

The set opened with "The Fall," a less popular track from "Shadowglow". Throughout the song, the band seamlessly slid between quiet atmospheric sounds and intense beats with a dexterity that continued throughout the rest of their performance. One of their more popular songs, "Sad Disco," featured a funky bassline and catchy melody that showcased Basse's mesmerizing voice, proving to be another audience hit from "Shadowglow." Flipturn's newer songs highlighted soft harmonies between Jarman, Basse and Duncan, something that was not typically featured in their older music. Other highlights included the band's top streamed songs: "Chicago" and "August," the popularity of which were evident as the crowd sang along. "August" also featured a solo from nearly every musician, particularly highlighting Fountain's keyboard skills. The band also included in their setlist a cover of "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" by Tears for Fears. Flipturn frequently covers the 1985 hit at their live shows and recently released a version on streaming services.

After the group appeared to end the show, the audience's chants of "one more song" beckoned them back out on stage to perform a spectacular encore. Their final songs were the most jam-like of the night, giving each member a chance to show off their skills one last time.

Flipturn is clearly no stranger to live performances; in fact, the band attributes their current success and the growth of their fan base to live shows near their hometown of Fernandina Beach, Fla. Flipturn's ability to garner attention gradually, mainly through live performances and word-of-mouth recommendations, feels refreshing in a time when it often feels like algorithms and advertisers curate our music taste for us. Their vital sounds and lyrics capture a sense of relatability for their young audience that feels natural and unforced, which can be hard to find in newer indie groups.

NEWS

Middlebury hires new Muslim Chaplain, interfaith advisor Zahra Moeini Meybodi
By ORLY BERKE

PAGE 2

LOCAL

Sheldon Museum's "Fashion in Historic Middlebury" exhibit narrates town's nineteenth-century
By MADELEINE KAPTEIN

PAGE 4

OPINIONS

On new schedules, food options and accommodations in dining halls
By EDITORIAL BOARD

After the flood
By LIBBY SCAPEROTTA

PAGE 6

ARTS & CULTURE

What happened to the 90-minute movie?
By CHARLIE KEOHANE

All it's chalked up to be
By ACADIA KLEPEIS

PAGE 8

SPORTS

Kelly Ferrero '23.5 reaches 1,00-career digs as leading libero
By TING CUI

PAGE 10

Incoming Feb recounts experience with Moroccan earthquake

By SOPHIA McDERMOTT-HUGHES
Editor at Large

After thirty minutes of vicious shaking, the world once again stood still, save for the giant cloud of dust rising story by story to envelop the city. Then the screaming started.

Beck Orten '27.5 clung desperately to her friend, surrounded by glass shards from the shattered light bulbs that once adorned the terrace overhang where she had been admiring the lights over the city of Marrakech, Morocco before the earthquake hit at 11:11 p.m. on Sept. 8.

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake caused more than 2,900 deaths and 5,500 casualties, according to the Moroccan Interior Ministry. Its epicenter was in the High Atlas mountains, just 72 miles southwest of Marrakech, where Orten was visiting.

Morocco lies on the Northwest coast of Africa, adjoining the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Marrakech is one of its most famous cities, with the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Marrakech's medina, or old city, drawing millions of tourists from around the world each year.

Orten arrived on Sept. 7 with a group of friends, hoping to explore the city on a break from her job teaching English in Casablanca, Morocco as part of her gap semester before she arrives at Middlebury this February.

After a day of exploring Marrakech, Orten was relaxing on the terrace with her friend when the quake began.

Paralyzed by the sounds of screams below, they remained huddled together on the roof until the city quieted and they headed for the stairs. But the dust hanging thickly in the air soon forced them back as they struggled to breathe. They returned to the terrace, unaware of the six-foot crack snaking up the side of the building that supported the overhang.

The lights, internet and cellphone signal had all gone out, leaving them with no way of reaching their friends in the hostel below. After waiting as long as they felt they could, they braved the stairs once more and emerged onto the street unharmed but for the dust they had inhaled.

They found the rest of their group shortly, along with seemingly every other inhabitant of the city as native Moroccans and tourists alike fled their homes and hotels.

One of Orten's friends stumbled out of the crumbling building without shoes, joining others in the streets in various states of disarray — a Moroccan man clad only in his underwear next to a tourist fresh from the shower, gripping a towel close to her body. The routine social norms of modest dress seemed to have broken down completely as women wearing full-body niqabs mingled with those in their bathrobes.

Orten and her friends followed the crowd around them, which slowly picked its way towards the closest mosque. People trickled into the square in front of the mosque and filled the courtyard within, settling for a long night ahead.

Despite none of the group speaking Arabic and no one else speaking English, the Moroccans around Orten's group offered them aid as she and her friends tried to help other people in the square themselves.

The motorcyclists that typically zip through the crowded walkways of Marrakech, narrowly missing pedestrians, wove through the crowd, handing out thick woolen blankets to ward off the 45-degree chill. Only four of Orten's group of six could fit under the blanket the motorcyclists gave them at one time, so they rotated out and supplemented their meager supplies by using a towel as a covering and a water bottle as a pillow.

One woman began to have an asthma attack in reaction to the thick dust still hanging in the air and coating every surface. In her hurried escape, she had left her inhaler at home and began to panic in its absence. Orten's friend coached her through calming exercises until her breathing regulated.

It wasn't until 2 a.m., three hours after the earthquake hit, that cell service was restored to the area. For the first time, Orten began to grasp the magnitude of the earthquake as she read about the rising death toll.

The intensity of the night and biting cold kept Orten awake until the dawn call to prayer heralded the daybreak as if it were any other morning. The call seemed to echo through the silent city as each mosque broadcasted it from the remaining minaret towers.

Orten skirted the rubble and the people still sleeping in the courtyard, her exhaustion muting the loud calls of "Allahu akbar,"a common phrase in Muslim prayer, to wash the dust off of her hands as part of her adulations before heading to the prayer room.

"The imam's voice shook as he recited the prayer. If he was crying or breathless, it was impossible to tell... Faith alone seemed to hold the building up," Orten said. "It was the most human I'd ever felt, kneeling barefoot on a dirty carpet praying in a language I barely understood."

The early morning light revealed rubble-covered streets, collapsed terraces and parts of buildings blocking the city's famous alleyways. Despite the crack running up the side of the hostel, Orten's group decided it seemed structurally sound enough for them to enter and grab their belongings.

The group picked through the rubble, carrying their suitcases and exhausted bodies towards the bus station on the edge of the medina.

Despite the destruction, many people seemed to wake up to perform their jobs as usual. Uniformed trash collectors navigated around the crumbled sides of buildings to pick up discarded cigarette butts, and motorcycles arrived pulling carts of fruits and vegetables to sell at the market. As Orten and her friends waited for their bus home, a man tried to sell them day trips to the Sahara desert from a binder full of options.

Deciding that the vacation had yielded enough excitement already, Orten stayed on the bus as it pulled away and began the four-hour trip north to Casablanca. After surviving a natural disaster, navigating its aftermath and remaining awake for more than 24-hours through cold and uncertainty, at last, Orten slept.

COURTESY PHOTO
People seek refuge the square infront of Ibn Yusuf Mosque in the old city of Marrakech, Morocco after a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit on Sept. 8.

Middlebury hires new Muslim Chaplain, interfaith advisor Zahra Moeini Meybodi

By ORLY BERKE
News Editor

As the school year begins, Zahra Moeini Meybodi has started her role as the new Muslim chaplain and interfaith advisor at Middlebury. Born in Queens, Moeini grew up in the most diverse county in the United States, a welcoming community where she began her religious journey. Later on, Moeini attended CUNY Hunter College for her bachelor's degree in religious studies before pursuing a master's degree in the same subject at the University of Chicago.

After receiving her Master of Divinity degree, Moeini began teaching courses in Religious Studies at Hunter College. Moeini said she originally envisioned herself in more of an academic role for her future, focusing on the bigger questions she had asked herself so often in the classroom when she was younger. However, when the opportunity to come to Middlebury as a religious advisor arose, she could not resist applying.

"At some point, I also wanted to explore [the] actual kind of practice of religion and community organizing, because I also had experiences in that both on campuses and beyond campuses, for young Muslims. And so when I saw the opportunity to work here, I was very much interested in pursuing it," Moeini told The Campus.

Although the role is not strictly academic, Moeini said she still hopes to bring in more conversations about the philosophical questions of religion to Middlebury's religious community and discuss the relationship between faith, spiritual life and contemporary issues.

Along with teaching, Moeini helped co-found NYC Muslims Discuss, an online platform built for addressing issues facing the Muslim community. This experience helped Moeini hone her skills in organizing events and creating open, engaging discussions.

"I felt a lot of people benefited from it... They live with the ways in which we talk about mental health and psychology and vulnerability, but they also want it to be translated sometimes and put into conversations with things that are part of their other identities, you know, for example, their Muslim identity, or other faiths," Moeini said.

These are the types of conversations Moeini hopes to bring to Middlebury through her work here. However, Moeini will go further than just being the Muslim chaplain — she is also the interfaith advisor to the MOSAIC House, a residential space for students looking to explore their religious and spiritual journeys, and advisor to the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

"While we at the interfaith house will miss Saifa [former Muslim chaplain and interfaith advisor], these first few weeks with Zahra have been lovely. She has such a warm, funny, and thoughtful presence and I am very excited to see what this year will bring," Lea Hohenlohe '24, a resident of the MOSAIC house, told The Campus.

As an interfaith advisor, Moeini, along with Chaplain of the College Mark Orten, will co-lead weekly discussions in the MOSAIC House regarding spiritual and religious topics. Rather than focus solely on Islam, Moeini said she believes that having conversations outside of religion is essential to improving spiritual health. These conversations highlight the larger questions necessary for not only making personal connections, but also for further community building at Middlebury. .

While the college prides itself on being a diverse and inclusive community, the Muslim Student Association's prayer space's surrounding area was desecrated during the month of Ramadan in spring of 2022 while two members were inside. The perpetrator, or perpetrators, poured urine right outside of the space before attempting to break into the room, according to an email sent to the group's members. The perpetrators were unable to break in as only approved members have access to the space. They were never publicly identified.

"Muslims face discrimination, bias, and violence in a myriad of ways, and these kinds of incidents trigger the fear and belief that Muslims are unwelcome, are other, and do not deserve safety and dignity. The desecration of a space that is dedicated for prayer is an abhorrent violation not only of our institutional values but also of basic human decency," wrote the Community Bias Response Team and Dean of Students Derek Doucet in an email to the community following the incident.

When asked about this instance, Moeini said her first instinct was to condemn the injustice, and then approach the situation with compassion.

"What happened was unfortunate and unacceptable, and needs to be remedied structurally in the school, especially when it comes to potential expressions of Islamophobia," she said. "It's always good to start off with compassion and trying to understand where people are, if that was a malicious thing to do."

Moeini added that it is important to have conversations about this sort of behavior and understand why they would do such a thing, all with compassion and the intention of understanding each other.

In 2019, the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding released a report detailing the rise of Islamophobia in the United States since the 9/11 terrorist attack. Moeini said while compassion is essential, it is also important to acknowledge the danger of Islamophobia, not just on the global scale but locally, too.

"I wonder how that can be systematically engaged and addressed in school, whether that is bringing in conversations with DEI, whether that is the conversations with the Scott Center, or both in collaboration," Moeini said. Having discussions about these types of incidents on campus, informing students about common Muslim misconceptions/stereotypes and addressing hatred head on are other solutions, Moeini added..

New York City to Middlebury is a big move, but Moeini said she is excited to embrace the small, more intimate community here in Vermont. "It allows you to really experience the questions that are gonna go on, and also a smaller knit community makes you build stronger connections," she said.

Knoll's 20th anniversary celebrations to begin fall family weekend

By SUSANNA SCHATZ
Senior News Editor

The Knoll's biggest event of the year is just around the corner. After a year and a half of planning, the Knoll will soon begin its 20th anniversary celebrations, just in time for families coming to campus next weekend.

A variety of events will be offered at the Knoll during the weekend of Sept. 30, including a garden volunteering session, a harvest festival, a book release party and a poetry workshop.

The Knoll was founded by students in 2003 with the idea that it would serve as an educational garden and gathering space for the campus community. Twenty years later, a group of students who are involved with the Knoll believe that this goal has been achieved.

"The Knoll is a place where people flourish as much as food, where connection between the students and the wider community becomes reciprocal, and where learning, service and transformation take place daily," a group of Knoll student interns wrote in an op-ed for The Campus in 2022.

According to Megan Brakeley '06, associate director of the Knoll, plans for the 20th anniversary celebrations have been in the works for a year and a half.

"So much love [was] poured in from students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community interns, volunteers and friends," Brakeley wrote in an email to The Campus.

Daniela Ortiz '25.5, an intern at the Knoll for the 2023 growing season, is looking forward to the upcoming celebration of the Knoll's existence and success.

"I think it will be really joyful, rain or shine, and I'm also excited for the yummy food! The smaller event we had last spring had a really great turnout and I think this one will be even more energy," Ortiz wrote in an email to The Campus.

Ortiz noted that it has been remarkable to see how many people from various parts of the Middlebury community have come together to plan these events. She also added that the Knoll has been a positive part of her Middlebury experience, allowing her to meet other students and relax in an outdoor space.

"I think [the Knoll] allows students from any background to engage with caring for the earth, to learn new skills without judgment and to feel the love put into the space by the many caretakers and friends who stop by," Ortiz said.

The majority of the 20th anniversary celebratory events will take place during fall family weekend and the organizers welcome any and all who are interested to attend.

The weekend of festivities kicks off on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 29 with garden volunteer hours that are open to all. The next day, the Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival will take place from 1–4 p.m., featuring seasonal food and performances including student musicians as well as Abenaki music and storytelling.

That Sunday, a book release party will be held in the Abernethy Room at Axinn Center to celebrate the community-sourced book "Growing with the Knoll: 20 Years in the Garden," which includes memories, photos, art, and poetry submitted by alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends. The same afternoon, Writer-in-Residence Emerita Julia Alvarez will lead a poetry workshop from 2–4 p.m.

The following weekend on Friday, Oct. 6, the Knoll will collaborate with Dolci to provide a meal for students featuring Knoll and locally-grown food in Atwater Dining Hall. Tickets for the event will be distributed in Dolci's typical email raffle format.

Details about all of the 20th anniversary celebrations as well as information on getting involved with the Knoll can be found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-c_VV-jpIQcV6jIXeihHev9EKWTQR8BWS7lZW9aXNHw/edit

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX:

Mail center adapts to mailbox shortage, plans new system

By OLIVIA MUELLER
News Editor

Back-to-school is always a busy time of year, especially at the mail center. It's a guarantee that students will order larger items directly to school during move-in or have to place last-minute orders when they realize which dorm decorations they are missing. This year, however, on top of the typical early semester mail center commotion, there is a shortage of available mailboxes.

With 2,628 mailboxes on campus and around 2,800 enrolled students this fall, the numbers do not allow the mail center to assign one mailbox for every student. Currently, students without mailboxes receive the regular emails for new mail, but pick up their mail from behind the counter, instead of from their own box.

Mailbox shortages at the mail center have proven to be a recurring challenge since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Facing similar levels of over enrollment in 2021, the mail center experimented with sending mail directly to students' doorsteps for select college-owned houses and off-campus residences. While direct delivery was effective in solving the shortage in the past, the mail center landed on a different approach this fall.

The mail center had originally planned to make changes to the system this fall, but has since delayed those adjustments to J-Term.

"Our plan is to eliminate mailboxes altogether and [replace] them with package lockers similar to the Amazon lockers," mail center supervisor Jacki Galenkamp wrote in an email to The Campus.

The key aspect of the new system is that mail processing will be automated, according to Lucy Inkster '25, a student employee at the mail center.

The upcoming system will enhance package collection and maximize space by removing the requirement for individual mailboxes for students, as many students' mailboxes go unused for the majority of the semester.

For a team with two mail center directors, down from the previous three, and between 15 and 20 current student workers, Inkster said any efficiency gains in handling the large package volume of the entire campus make a big difference.

"There's still that middleman, but it reduces problems," she said.

During the first weeks of the semester through Oct. 12, the mail center is operating out of the warehouse behind McCullough Student Center and Stewart Hall rather than the mail counter to efficiently store and distribute the higher volume of packages they receive.

"We are swamped right now and will be for a while," Galenkamp wrote.

For the time being, students without mailboxes are still being notified of envelopes that come in via the warehouse.

"Currently we are processing anything important as "tray mail", sending students an email just like any other package and having them come to the warehouse to collect their mail," Galenkamp added.

Once the mail center transitions back to its typical location inside McCullough and mailboxes are assigned for the fall semester, that procedure will be the same for those without assigned boxes. Students without physical mailboxes will pick up their letters and mail from a clerk during operating hours. Mail center operating hours for both the temporary warehouse and the permanent location inside McCullough are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The current student mailboxes in McCullough student center. THOMAS NEVINS / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

NEW MIDDLEBURY SCHOOL IN TAIWAN TO BEGIN SPRING 2024

COURTESY PHOTO

she is particularly interested in taking Chinese business classes and classes on cross-strait relations.

In addition to immersive classes, students studying in Taiwan will .live with other Mandarin-speakers. They have the rare opportunity to live in a double room with a Taiwanese student, allowing for deeper cultural exchange. Taiwanese students will also lead cultural activities that Middlebury students can participate in, including arts and crafts and traditional cooking classes.

Students are encouraged to explore their new surroundings, and will receive weekly funding for cultural activities. On-campus, they can join National Sun Yat-sen University clubs like the Student Chorus, the Drama Association and the Painting and Calligraphy Association.

Students who choose to spend the full academic year in Taiwan also have the opportunity to complete an internship during their second semester. These internship opportunities are with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, local businesses and media outlets.

Mayers hopes that the program will be successful in sparking connections between Middlebury students and Taiwan broadly.

"We don't know what activities students will really participate in and make the most out of," Mayers said. "We want them to engage with people in Kaohsiung, with Taiwanese students at National Sun Yat-sen University, make friendships and feel like they have something of a home in Taiwan, or second home rather and feel like it was a successful semester for them."

SHELDON MUSEUM'S FASHION IN HISTORIC MIDDLEBURY EXHIBIT NARRATES MIDDLEBURY'S NINETEENTH-CENTURY FASHION SCENE

By MADELEINE KAPTEIN
Local Editor

MADELEINE KAPTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Sign outside the Henry Sheldon Museum advertising the exhibit.

"Ivory and pearl make the prettiest handles for parasoles," dogmatically claims one of many "Fashion Notes" published in a Middlebury newspaper from 1867.

The Henry Sheldon Museum — Middlebury's community museum dedicated to preserving the town's history — opened a new exhibit this month. "From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury" displays an eclectic collection of local 19th-century fashion-related artifacts, from opinionated newspaper clippings to button-up shoes and Victorian paper dolls.

The exhibit is on display from Sept. 8 through Jan. 13, 2024 in the Walter Cerf Gallery at the Sheldon, located at 1 Park Street.

Henry Sheldon's vast collection of items that could narrate Middlebury's story of historic women's fashion took months to sort through, according to Eva Garcelon-Hart, curator of the exhibit and head archivist of the Stewart-Swift Research Center, a part of the Sheldon Museum. Careful researching of the topic, configuring the displays and writing accurate and thorough labels for each display were all part of the undertaking required for this exhibit.

"We do everything on a shoe-string and from labor of love," Garcelon-Hart said. "It's a creative process, which I like."

Tulip Larson '25 interned at the Sheldon this summer and assisted in the early research process for the exhibit, taking inventory of the newspapers and periodicals in the Stewart-Swift Research Center to identify potentially useful artifacts. For Larson, the fun of the project was in perusing magazines, newspapers and fashion advertisements from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"The Sheldon has so many amazing resources on fashion and otherwise and Eva did an amazing job collating these resources into a wonderful exhibit," Larson said.

The exhibit illustrates the evolution in clothing manufacturing through the 19th century, when Middlebury's successful textile production and marble industry made the town a hub for women, in particular, to operate clothing-related business and for merchants to sell clothes. Industrialization transitioned clothing from being a primarily homemade good to a pre-manufactured commodity, according to Garcelon-Hart.

The exhibit contains a shop sign for Miss A. Sampsons' Dressmaking, which hung at 72 Main Street in 1880, advertising the woman-owned business that once existed above the current Tinker and Smithy Game Store. Hand-made scraps of fabric are displayed in the exhibit, representative of the material women worked with before machinery was used. Notes from Henry Sheldon's mother that record how much cloth she spun, wove, and dyed are also on display.

Photographs in the exhibit from the latter half of the 19th century reveal that the display windows on Merchants Row currently occupied by Little Seed Coffee Roasters and Sabai Sabai Thai once boasted pre-manufactured clothing, demonstrating the transition away from home-spun garments.

This change marked the inception of unsustainable fashion that overwhelms the clothing industry today, according to Garcelon-Hart, who feels passionately about the industry's harm to the environment. Advertisements in the exhibit, such as an 1823 ledger from a local business, promote various clothing repair services, which are now rarely sought after. Given the cheap materials that constitute our current wardrobes, clothing is typically thrown out rather than mended or repurposed.

Garcelon-Hart's other objective for the exhibit was to show the rigidity of popular and accepted women's fashion in 19th-century Middlebury, which was often based on trends in Paris, London and New York. These standards were elucidated by the nineteenth-century circulated fashion magazines, Victorian paper dolls, a color fashion plate, and photographs of women taken in Middlebury. Millinery adornments and old shoes provide a closer look into how women accessoried themselves.

The "Fashion Notes" circulating in newspapers at the time instructed women on what to wear in a period when they were often harshly judged for their clothes.

"Pointed or tapering crowns for bonnets are no longer fashionable," reads a "Fashion Note" from 1886 — bad news for women who may have just made or purchased a new head accessory of the denounced style.

"They convey this ideal of femininity and how you should look," Garcelon-Hart said, in reference to the exhibit's featured fashion plate. "Women look at it and try to keep up with it."

The progression of fashion and its social role speaks to the culture and changes in a society at large — and nineteenth-century Middlebury was no exception.

The Sheldon Museum hosted an opening reception for the exhibit on Sept. 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with live music played by Jared Ahern '25 and food and drinks for attendees. The Sheldon is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. Information about the exhibit is available on the Sheldon's website, https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/.

Editor's note: Tulip Larson '25 is an Arts and Culture Editor for The Middlebury Campus

LOCAL NONPROFIT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING HOSTS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

By COLE CHAUDHARI
Copy Editor

Aiming to address the issue of affordable housing, Addison Housing Works held its annual fundraising event, Addison Housing Rocks in the town of Middlebury last Friday, Sept. 15.

Just beyond St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Main Street at Triangle Park, the event was a lively and informative evening for about 75 attendees.

"[The event] is bigger this year than it has ever been, and it's never been on the Green," John Barstow, chair of the Addison Housing Works Board told The Campus. "I'm largely responsible for saying we need to get more exposure."

At Friday's event, Addison Housing Works unveiled their new name and slogan, "Affordable Homes, Strong Communities." Formerly known as the Addison County Community Trust, the group elected to change its name to better reflect its chief goal: affordable housing, available for everyone who needs it.

A resident of Addison County for 32 years, Barstow has watched the housing crisis in Addison County develop to its current unsustainable state.

"We need people to know both what we do, and that we can't do enough," he said in reference to Addison Housing Works' efforts.

Refreshments at the event were provided by three local businesses. Viva La Sabor, a women-led culinary collective from the heart of Addison Country, provided authentic and ethically sourced staples of Mexican cuisine, while the Pittsfield, Ma.-based Full Belly Food Truck offered a diverse array of Tex-Mex barbeque options and Adventure Dinner, a collaborative event company that travels the state of Vermont, provided a wide selection of beverages for the event, including local craft beers and cocktails.

Barstow expressed gratitude for the donations of local businesses to Addison Housing Works.

Addison Housing Works receives annual donations from businesses and firms in the area, without which the non-profit would not be able to offer its financial services to prospective owners and renters.

"I think more people need to understand how much local businesses support local nonprofits," Jon Crystal, current community representative to the board and former chairman of Addison Housing Works, told The Campus.

Crystal offered more insight into the goals of both the Addison Housing Rocks event and Addison Housing Works as a whole.

A 20-year resident of Addison County and of the state of Vermont for over 50 years, Crystal also noted how the housing crisis has become a pressing issue. Before joining the Addison Housing Works Board about eight years ago, Crystal chaired the board of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, a multi-county organization that addresses housing and local social, environmental and racial justice issues.

"I'd love for the county and for the state as a whole to have a clear understanding of the issues around affordable housing," he said. "There is a dearth of housing available at all income levels."

Crystal explained that working for expanded housing opportunities is a constant battle, and one that requires commitment from all corners of the town, county and state. He also expressed his hope for more partnership with the college, given that the lack of affordable housing options in the area often forces potential faculty and staff to turn down job offers.

Addison Housing Works supports affordable housing renting and purchasing for residents in a number of ways, one of which being the shared equity grant program, which as of 2022 provided up to $75,000 in funds to potential homeowners through its Homeland Grants.

Functioning as a down payment, the grant is a stabilizing mechanism for a mortgage, making homes permanently more economical for residents who otherwise may not be able to afford buying a home.

Sharon Tierra, a resident of Shoreham, Vt. since 2005 and an attendee of Addison Housing Rocks, lives in a home purchased through the shared equity grant.

"We wouldn't have been able to buy our house without the grant," Tierra said. "Our mortgage is quite low."

Addison County State Senator Ruth Hardy addressed the crowd at the event, emphasizing the importance of housing as a widespread issue and detailing some of her legislative work to combat the problem.

In the last state legislative session in June, the Vermont State Senate passed landmark legislation simplifying the zoning processes and regulations for housing. Housing was a major obstacle in finishing this year's session, according to Hardy, who acknowledged there is still much to be done about the issue.

Hardy underscored the importance of safe, affordable housing and continuing to pass effective legislation in light of recent housing crises.

"During the pandemic, we got a lot of federal funding that allowed us to pay for temporary housing," she told The Campus. "It cost ninety million dollars to do just that, and that is unsustainable outside of a pandemic. Now that those funds are drying up, the question becomes what to do for a long-term solution."

COLE CHAUDHARI/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Attendees on the Town Green during Addison Housing Rocks.

Hardy mentioned the college's participation in the housing situation, applauding its donation of land for affordable housing on Seminary Street but lamenting its ownership of properties that previously housed local residents.

"I see the college as both a partner and a problem in this situation. I think they are attempting to do better, and I encourage them to do that," Hardy said. She added, however, that the college has poorly planned their housing and enrollment systems – "the college needs to be intentional and aware that what they do has broader, community-wide effects."

Hardy still believes the college can work with groups like Addison Housing Works to secure a more affordable and accessible environment for those living and working in Addison County, and she is excited to continue tackling this issue.

With the unveiling of their new branding and mission during last week's Addison Housing Rocks, Addison Housing Works enters into the next phase of their work with a renewed focus and determination. More information on programs and future events can be found on Addison Housing Works' website, addisontrust.org.

Editor's note: Ruth Hardy is married to Middlebury College Professor of Film and Media Culture Jason Mittell, who is the Campus' academic advisor.

TAM Trek sees record sign-ups, altered course in its 20th year

continued from page 1

family fun run. This was the first year that MALT offered a 5k option.

This year's 19-mile course featured two re-routes due to the flash flooding that Middlebury experienced over the summer. The first affected area came early on in the trail, where the course heads down Seymour Street and up Chipman Hill. As the trail winds up the hill, the TAM eventually intersects with a road that passes by the old Middlebury College ski jump.

"That section of the road washed out and... there's some pretty deep gullies where the trail used to be," Remsen said. MALT is still working on repairs for this section of the trail.

The second re-route of the course came later in the full race, at around the halfway point. After runners headed down the Class of '97 Trail, south of Route 125, the TAM winds through fields. Due to the flooding in this area, the race instead crossed Ridgeline Parking Lot out to the Knoll, where it reunited with the TAM again.

Remsen added that these re-routes did not significantly change the typical 19-mile distance of the race.

"I will say what that means is... there won't be any course records set this year because of these kinds of changes that we've had to make," he said.

Leah Mowry '24.5, who ran the full 19-mile race, noted that the community aspect of the race between college students and community members was lively and motivating.

"It's not very often that students interact with the community that much, so it was really fun to see that happening and they were just always cheering each other on," she said.

This was the first year that Mowry has run the race. "I had friends who were signing up and were really wanting to do it, so I was like 'OK, this is the year I'm going to do it'," she said. While she ended up running apart from her friends, Mowry said she was always running with other participants close by, which contributed to the race's uplifting atmosphere.

"It... felt a bit like home in that I knew the whole trail and where I was and what was coming up which was really nice," she said.

"It was really cool to see all parts of the community come together surrounded by the love of the TAM," said Julianna Haensly '23.5, who ran the 10k race. A former member of the women's swim and dive team at Middlebury, she has taken up running on the TAM as a hobby since she retired from swimming this past February.

"[I've been running] here and there when I'm out of season so it's become a pretty special place," Haensly said

Haensly thought running the TAM Trek would be a great way to wrap up her college experience before graduating in February.

"It was definitely an intense trail run, but being from Boulder, I loved it," she said.

Haensly ran with friends who also competed in the 10k, and mentioned how the energy of cheering each other on and encouragement from other runners made for a fun environment.

"There was great energy before and then after... they had food and all sorts of stuff so people hung out and were just enjoying the day," she added. The TAM Trek serves primarily as a fundraising effort for MALT, and is the largest fundraiser the organization hosts each year. MALT's goal this year was to raise $30,000 through registration and donations to the TAM Trek for maintenance and upgrading the trail, Remsen said.

The annual cost to maintain the TAM is around $18,000, according to the MALT website. This year, meeting the fundraising goal was especially important in order to repair sections of the trail damaged by the summer flooding.

This flooding caused the course to be muddier than usual. "It was definitely a challenge to navigate that and watch my footing," Haensly said. However, she expressed the sentiment of many runners when it comes to trail running:

"It's kind of fun to run and get a little muddy sometimes."

EMILY HOGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The TAM Trek followed the Trail Around Middlebury, which passes through fields, forests, and four different towns.

Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op embraces its fall season

By MADELEINE KAPTEIN
Local Editor

The locally-adored Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op is busy preparing for its fall season — meeting with the nonprofit's member-owners, facilitating the annual September Eat Local Challenge, bringing in the new fall produce and holding a variety of cooking and herbalism classes are all on the agenda.

The Co-Op hosted its annual meeting and celebration at the back patio of American Flatbread with complementary flatbread pizza, salad and desserts on Wednesday, Sep. 13. The event was open to the public, but its attendees are typically some of its member-owners, a group composed of over 6,300 households in Addison County as well as households from Bretland, Vt., Rochester, Vt. and parts of New York State.

At the meeting each September, Co-Op General Manager Greg Prescott discusses the progress and community impact of the Co-Op from the past year and announces plans for the upcoming year. The Co-Op Board of Directors also gives a financial update, informing its member-owners about the allocation of funds and donations and where they will be directed in the coming months.

The Middlebury Co-Op is one of many co-ops in Vermont that holds annual meetings with its member-owners. According to an episode of All Things Considered aired on Vermont Public Radio in Jan. 2022, Vermont has a history of successful co-ops dating back to the 19th century, when they were popularized by the dairy industry. Michael Wells, an experienced Putney Food Co-Op board member, spoke in the episode about the generational practice of Vermonters helping each other out in small communities, fueling a cultural passion for co-ops.

Emily Landenberger, Middlebury Co-Op marketing, education & membership assistant manager, said that after approximately 10 years of attending the annual meeting, her favorite part is the open question and discussion session after the initial information has been presented.

"It's always so valuable, having the community be able to ask questions and engage with their Co-Op in that way," Landenberger said.

September is also Eat Local Month at the Middlebury Co-Op, accompanied by the Eat Local Challenge. This month, member-owners will be able to see at the bottom of their receipts how much money they have spent on local products. When that total is more than 25 dollars, the receipt becomes a raffle ticket which can be entered into a drawing to win one of six 25-dollar Middlebury Co-Op gift cards. Receipts totaling 50 dollars or more can be entered to win one of more than six 50-dollar Co-Op gift cards.

As another form of celebration for Eat Local Month, the Middlebury Co-Op has placed a model of a large ear of corn in front of the store endearingly called "Big Corn," and throughout September they will track their payments to local producers by adding on rows of kernels with a goal of $600,000 spent locally.

During last year's Eat Local Month, the Co-Op set the same goal of $600,000 and successfully beat it by $3,118, but made the decision this year not to increase the goal in response to this summer's flooding, heavy rainfall and an unusually late spring frost. Farmers and producers have reported that these circumstances have decreased harvests and will prevent them from bringing in as much produce as they typically have in previous years.

"It's a great way for us to help [farmers] sell as much as what they've grown and produced as possible during this challenging growing season," Landenberger said. "I think they're particularly excited about having those extra incentives or ways for us to be able to support them."

According to Landenberger, apple enthusiasts have a strong crop to look forward to at the Middlebury Co-Op this year. The local apple orchards from which the Co-Op purchases their apples, Sunrise Orchards in Cornwall, Vt. and Champlain Orchards in Shoreham, Vt. have fared quite well through the damage from the late spring frost compared with orchards in other parts of Vermont. Winter squash and root crops will also trickle into the Co-Op's selections at this time of year, largely bought from Golden Russet Farm in Shoreham, Vt. but also New Leaf Organic in Lincoln, Vt. and a couple of other farms.

Annika Milliman '25.5 said she is a regular at the Middlebury Co-Op. "The Co-Op is a go-to shopping place for me all year round because they offer foods that cater to my dietary restrictions — foods that I can't get in the dining hall," Milliman told The Campus. "I get tons of snacks there for my room and will continue to do so this whole fall."

In partnership with the Co-Op, the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, a vocational school geared towards high school students and evening adult education, will host a series of classes this fall, including cooking classes in their commercial kitchen. The offerings also include a Mushroom Walk with local mushroom expert Meg Madden, a Flavors of South India class with Delna Khambatta, owner of Delna's Kitchen, and a Chicory Charm class with Janis Reinke from Frog Hollow Farm to celebrate Vermont's 3rd Annual Chicory Week. The full selection of classes can be found on the Middlebury Co-Op website.

According to Landenberger, the Co-Op is planning a symposium on farming and food growth in partnership with Middlebury College and co-founder of the Land Care Cooperative Abe Collins on Thursday, Nov. 9 from 6–8 p.m. in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. Collins will speak along with other guest Vermont farmers.

"This will be an opportunity for our community to come together and educate and organize ourselves as we begin this new chapter of cooperation with our farming neighbors, engaging in the work of growing pot soil, increasing biodiversity, increasing water holding capacity for our soils and increasing ground-water recharge," Lendenberger said.

An embodiment of Middlebury and greater Vermont community engagement, the Co-op is open daily from 8 a.m.– 7 p.m., located at 9 Washington Street in downtown Middlebury.

MADELEINE KAPTEIN / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The sign displayed in front of the Co-Op on 9 Washington St, Middlebury, Vt.

College Museum welcomes visitors to special exhibitions

By MAGGIE BRYAN
Senior Arts & Culture Editor

Nestled in the south corner of campus, the Middlebury College Museum of Art (MCMA) was buzzing this Thursday, as students, faculty and visitors gathered in celebration of the museum's two special exhibitions, "Tossed: Art from Discarded, Found, and Repurposed Materials," and "The Light of the Levant: Early Photography and the Late Ottoman Empire." The exhibition kickoff gave guests the chance to enjoy a cocktail while perusing the collections, offering a glimpse into the museum's role as a cultural center on campus.

"The Light of the Levant" opened on Sept. 5 and will be on display through Dec.10. Running the gamut of political, economic and ideological themes, the exhibit transports its visitors to a time when imperial thought was a strong through line in artistic culture, while also documenting photography's technological advances from the 1840s through the 1930s. Spanning nearly a century, "The Light of the Levant" covers early photography's connection to imperialism and a growing tourist industry, poignantly illustrating photography's political and commercial influences through well-organized and perceptive wall labels, some of which were contributed by students in Visiting Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architectural Studies Sarah Rogers' spring 2023 seminar, "Orientalism and the Visual Arts."

The exhibition begins with the French photographer Girault de Prangey's stills of the Middle East captured by his daguerreotype camera. It is roughly chronological, concluding with work from Karimeh Abboud, a self-proclaimed "lady photographer" whose portraiture and postcards give light to Palestinian communities under the British Mandate. The last portion of "The Light in the Levant" comprises a collection of Abboud's postcards, marking the beginning of mass-produced photography. Along with Aboudd's postcards of Galilee, the River Jordan, Nazareth and Jerusalem are photographs of the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike and other snapshots of iconic Ancient Greek structures and locations.

"The Light of the Levant" captures both the geographic and the technologic expansiveness of the late Ottoman Empire with impressive coherence. Co-curators Pieter Broucke, dean for the arts and professor of history of art and architectural studies, and Rogers combined her expertise in the history of photography with Broucke's knowledge of pre-modern architecture to create a remarkable final product. "It was a wonderful collaboration between our individual research interests and between the collection at the Museum and Special collections," they both noted.

COURTESY PHOTO

Next to "The Light of the Levant" in the museum is "Tossed: Art from Discarded, Found, and Repurposed Materials." "Tossed" is a nontraditional exhibit —one in which gasoline containers become Benin masks, a thrifted military jacket transforms into a life-size figure of an angel and a breadboard serves as a political commentary on oppression and resistance. The exhibit opened on May 26 of this year, showcasing the creativity of artists repurposing a diverse range of frequently discarded materials in eighteen selected works.

Printed on the wall are a number of quotes from the featured artists. A statement from artist Duke Riley reads, "I knew, when I was a kid, that I either wanted to be a garbage man, an artist or a thief. And I think I became all three." This sentiment gets to the heart of "Tossed," and art's relationship to originality, heritage, and an artist's creative ability. The exhibit demonstrates the artists' skill of connecting two seemingly unrelated things and granting often neglected material fresh, imaginative meanings in relation to a new concept.

Attendees at the opening reception included students from the art history course "Museum Studies: Exhibit Design," taught by the college's museum designer Ken Pohlman this past winter term. Christopher Fridlington '24, a member of Pohlman's class, mentioned how rewarding it was to see the efforts made by the class come to life. Curated by Pohlman with assistance from museum director Richard Saunders, former chief curator and director of engagement, diversity, equity and inclusion Jason Vrooman and Breadloaf alumna Jennifer K. Brown MA '94, along with student curators in Pohlman's course, "Tossed" is a must-see.

Despite their differences in time period, subject and themes, each exhibit is striking in its own right and both serve as powerful displays of the combined achievements of artists, curators and student contributors.

What happened to the 90-minute movie?

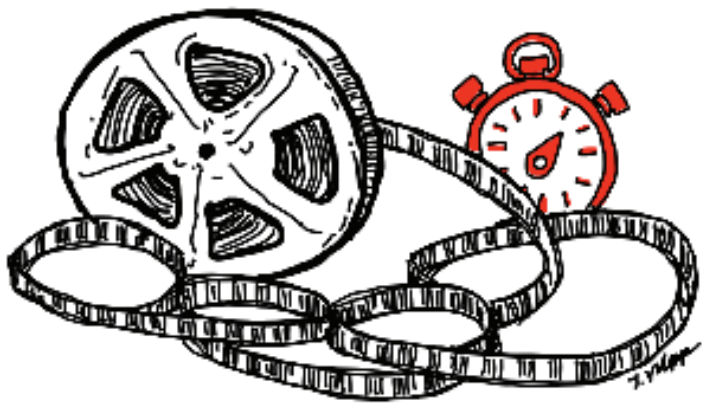
By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

Is bigger really always better? I love watching movies and spent the summer catching up on Hollywood's latest films. Yet I've noticed that many popular movies are racking up formidable running times. I'm left wondering: What happened to the 90-minute movie?

When it comes to movies, "less is more" is often more appropriate. With less time comes tighter lines, less lag time and a plot that clips along rather than drags. For example, this summer's blockbuster "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" clocked in at a whopping 154 minutes. Without delving into a full movie review, some fat definitely could have been trimmed from the film. The extended action sequences felt self-indulgent, especially when watching the third high-speed chase in two hours.

You can still have a satisfying, adventurous thriller without feeling tempted to check your phone. The first installment of the Indiana Jones franchise, "Raiders of the Lost Ark," has a 105-minute run time yet still manages to balance drama, romance and plenty of nail-biting action.

I can't mention long movies without bringing up one of the summer's most controversial films: Christoper Nolan's "Oppenheimer," which runs for a staggering 180 minutes. My biggest obstacle to seeing "Oppenheimer" was finding the time to carve out almost four hours, including commuting to the movie theater and arriving a little early (because who wants to miss previews?). While I enjoyed the movie, it could have been tighter without compromising the heftiness of the subject.



In addition to taking copious amounts of time, a long movie is a taxing mental investment. I downloaded "Babylon," Damien Chazelle's three-hour ode to classic Hollywood, to watch on an airplane but stopped after a few minutes because it seemed too intimidating. If I couldn't even bring myself to watch it while captive on a flight, it's unlikely that I'll be carving out that same time in the near future.

I was surprised to discover that there is already a lively online discourse about the 90-minute movie. A 2009 Esquire article raises a thoughtful point: When was the last time you walked out of a movie and thought, "Well, that was too short"? A shorter movie might also be better received by audiences who don't feel like their time is being wasted.

A Variety article titled "Why are movies so long now?" gives some insight into the increasing length of movies. The article explains how streaming studios have fewer restrictions than traditional movie theaters, granting big-name directors like Nolan and Steven Spielberg final-cut privileges over their films. The rise of big-budget action movies with A-list casts and heavy-handed computer-generated imagery also tends to result in longer films.

I want to recognize that there were some wonderful shorter movies released this year. One of my favorites was the A24 comedy-drama "You Hurt My Feelings," which clocked in at a tight 93 minutes. The film featured a simple and funny premise, and it never felt too lean or lacking in dramatic impact.

This is not, however, a blanket attack on all long movies."The Sound of Music," which is nearly three hours long, was one of my first introductions to the beautiful world of cinema. 194-minute "Titanic" is a rightful classic as well, but I want to reconsider the widespread shift beyond the two-hour mark.

What's problematic is the association between long movies and prestige; a longer movie isn't necessarily better. If it weren't three hours long, "Oppenheimer" still could have been a great movie. Shorter movies are more accessible and digestible.

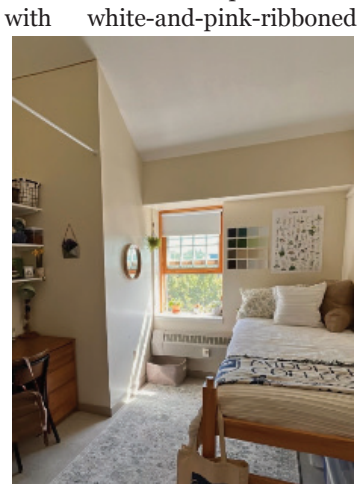
Some of my favorite movies — "When Harry Met Sally," "The Breakfast Club" and "Lady Bird" — all run under 100 minutes. It's no surprise that I return to these movies every year. I'd rather spend an hour and a half with a great, succinct film that I've seen before than risk spending three hours on a bloated, overdone dud.

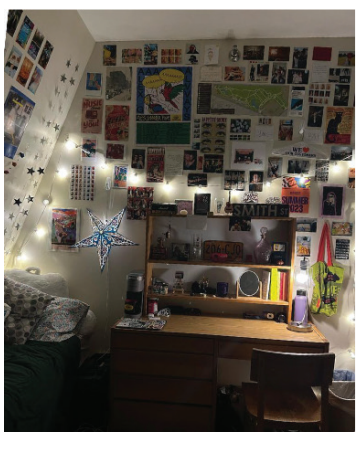
The college dorm, an altar to Midd Kids' humanity

By JONATHAN EATON
Staff Writer

After a summer filled with work, adventure and fun, Middlebury students have returned to their on-campus homes. Dorm rooms are not only sanctuaries for students' studies, sleep and sometimes parties. They are a reflection of one's humanity, an extension of the student soul. A true creative outlet, dorm rooms are a canvas of self-expression for students, lending themselves to key themes of independence and self-discovery for their inhabitants.

Kate Vasquez '26 was excited to have a single this semester because it meant she would be in the driver's seat in terms of decorating. "My bedroom at home is every cliché of a girl's childhood room: pink walls with white-and-pink-ribboned wallpaper, the works. I've always loved the light green and blue color palettes, but of course my parents weren't exactly enthusiastic about repainting and furnishing a whole bedroom, so I was really excited to have a single this year that I could make mine," Vasquez told The Campus. In her clean slate of a room this semester, Vasquez chose to use mirrors and light colors to "expand and brighten" her dorm.





Skiles Roberts-Salvador '26 also wanted a room that felt like it was uniquely her own. "During both my freshman and sophomore year at Middlebury it was really important to have a dorm room that really felt like me, decorating my room with creativity of my own, my friends and even my art students is both inspiring and comforting," Roberts-Salvador said.

For others, their dorm room is a place of familiarity and safety within the sometimes chaotic college experience. Ellie Trinkle '26 designed her room to be a welcoming, joyful space. She covered the walls with maps from places in her home, New York City, as well as letters and other mementos, like signs, matchboxes, a license plate and antiques. Trinkle's dorm is a nexus between the past, present and future of her coming-of-age journey.

Talia Trigg '26 chose to decorate her room with colorful sailing burgees from her dad and paintings of catboats.

"The one on the right represents a shared dream of mine with my dad, so it feels something like a scrapbook of my life — starting from something I was born into and reaching into the future," Trigg described.

In the middle of the wall is a painting of a spinnaker takedown during the 1987 America Cup in Australia, which Trigg said she appreciates because it adds a sense of motion to the calm feeling of the room. All together the nautical artwork create a "comfortable" space on campus for Trigg to grow in.

Cole Chaudhari '26 used the shelves in his room to combine pieces of his home and his academic journey, creating a library of sorts. The smattering of books Chaudhari displays in his dorm, "represent an intellectual and artistic map of where he's been, who he is now, and where he hopes to go," he said.

Bella Lucente '25 made her dorm an altar to her own story. "My family and I didn't have much growing up, so I relied on collecting items like posters, photos and random objects with which I have a significant connection. It would be as small as a leaf on the ground or a poster of my 8th-grade art teacher," Lucente described. "Wherever I go, it always feels necessary to hang up all the items I've collected throughout my life and make any location my altar."

In addition to centering a student's personal history, dorm decorations represent students' values and interests. Maisha Nuba '26 chose to fill her dorm with a combination of Taylor Swift and Bernie Sanders paraphernalia. A highlight of her decor is a poster of Sanders' face on Swift's album, "Lover," an unexpected detail that managed to creatively display her affection for both Swift's music and Sanders' political views.

Whether they are political, emotional, sentimental or artistic, dorm room decorations play an integral role in Middlebury students' journeys to self-realization. Havens of interior design and practicality, each Middlebury dorm serves as an intimate reflection of the life of its resident — for the year.

Editor's note: Skiles Roberts-Salvador '26 is a visuals contributor and Cole Chaudhari '26 is a copy editor for The Campus.

PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KATE'S ROOM, SKILES' ROOM, TALIA'S ROOM, ELLIE'S ROOM, BELLA'S ROOM.

ALL IT'S CHALKED UP TO BE

By ACADIA KLEPEIS
Arts & Culture Editor

Some come to Haymaker Bun Company for the coffee, some for the buns... and some for the handwriting.

Caitlin Sausville, better known to some as Lady Jane, is Middlebury's premier chalkboard artist. Since moving to Vermont in late 2022, the smooth loops and bold swoops of Sausville's hand lettering have graced the signage of local businesses from Shiretown Marketplace to Elli Parr.

Sausville's love affair with letters started early.

"I was in a second-grade class with a teacher who used those kind of felt tip faux calligraphy pens whenever she graded our papers and had the most beautiful handwriting," she recalled. "I really wanted to replicate what she did because it was just so cool, so my mom actually talked with her and got me and another girl this time with her as a little introductory lesson."

Little did the teacher know that she was kick-starting a life-long passion for Sausville.

Sausville took the leap from amateur to professional letterer while working at the restaurant Rye & Thyme in Leominster, Mass. "I just kept looking at [the board] and thinking, 'I feel like I see the vision for this,'" Sausville said. "I [was] spending a lot of time standing up in the front and [I thought] 'I could do something cool with this.'"

COURTESY PHOTO

The success of this first chalkboard snowballed. In addition to restaurants and businesses, Sausville quickly became involved in the wedding industry, creating hand-lettered invitations, menus and place settings with a personal touch.

Originally trained as a musical theatre artist, Sausville has a penchant for change. Just in the past two years, she has become a mom, chopped off shoulder-length curls in favor of a close crop and moved to a new state.

Upon arriving in Middlebury, Sausville became a regular customer at Haymaker Bun Company. Looking at their existing signage, she thought, "There's a lot of potential that was just sort of untapped there." She offered her skills to owner Caroline Corrente and completed the first A-frame board to great acclaim. Sausville now regularly updates Haymaker's seasonal menu.

Before long, other local businesses noticed her work.

The process varies from project to project. "As far as the design goes, some people do not have a vision, and some people do," Sausville said. Certain clients offer her total artistic liberty, while others specify a color scheme and where they would like the logo and information to be located. For some jobs, Sausville is able to remove the signs and complete them at home, while others need to be decorated in situ. Her choice of writing implement depends on the backing material and whether the sign will be indoors or outdoors, requiring a rotation of waterproof chalk markers, oil- and water-based paint pens, and traditional chalk.

"Each event has a very different feel. And sometimes that's the hardest part — the job is trying to capture that," Sausville explained."It's very much this modern calligraphy where I really found kind of my sweet spot."

Looking forward, Sausville has dreams of expanding her business.

"Right now it's really a passion project," she said. "I would love for it to be my career at some point, but I am a full-time mother of [two-year-old] twins."

One idea for a possible outshoot came to her on a cold winter evening. She had just moved to Middlebury for her husband's new job and was wandering the snowy streets downtown, window shopping, when the thought came to her.

"Some of the people whose work I admire the most actually are based out of [Ottawa] and they do these gorgeous painted windows. Main Street is just itching for something like that," she said.

Beyond storefronts, Sausville said she hopes to build relationships with local wedding planners. "Obviously, there's a huge wedding industry in Vermont, in the fall especially," she said. "I have yet to make that connection, but that would be the next frontier for me."

Sausville also mentioned her disappointment at the fading tradition of teaching cursive in elementary schools. The loss of this art form in schools means that there is a potential educational market for handwriting workshops, she said.

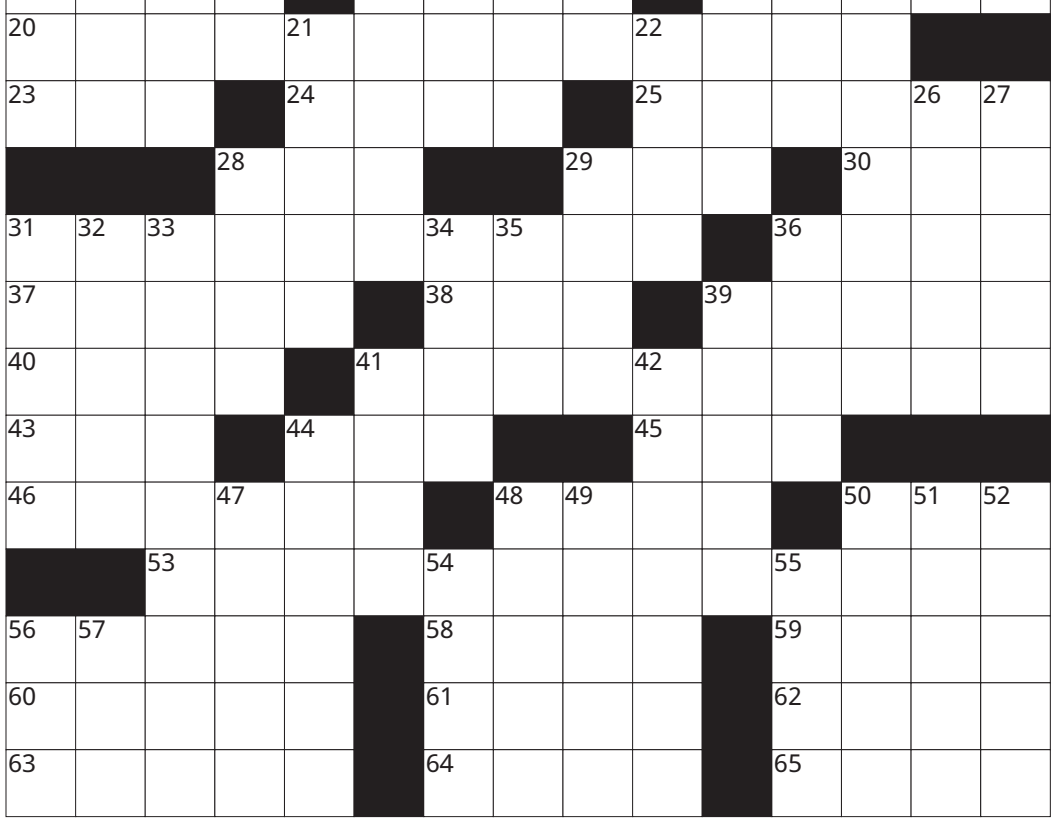
"What I have noticed is that a lot of people who do turn [hand lettering] into their full-time career rely on classes that they teach," Sausville added. In the future, she would love to offer sessions for teens and adults.

One perk of these sessions for those with basic knowledge of traditional cursive is that skills can be acquired rapidly. "You could actually walk out of a faux calligraphy class and design a Christmas card," she said.

This December, we would all do well to sharpen our pencils and unbox our crayons, but when it comes to professional lettering, it's caps off to Lady Jane.

9/21

William Reed



ACROSS
1 Michael of "Juno"
5 Church service
9 Strike ___
14 Painful precipitation
15 Wings (Latin)
16 * With 25 across: T. Swift's newest single
17 Rat-___
18 Prefix with prompter
19 Mrs. ___, "Beauty and the Beast" character
20 Proverb: they're certain and cannot be ignored or worked around
23 Ski company founded in 2005 headquartered in SLC
24 Closed (Fr.)
25 * See 16 across
28 Actress ___ Ling of "The Crow"
29 Cranberry ___ (marshy place)
30 Ginger ___
31 Goes back and forth repeatedly
36 Like ___ of sunshine
37 Ransacks
38 ___ Vegas
39 Please, in Berlin
40 British bathrooms
41 You can bet on them
43 Suffer, feel sick
44 French possessive
45 "___ for apple"
46 Djokovic's homeland
48 Yoga surfaces
50 CEO's degree
53 Quaker offering at breakfast
56 "Humble" home
58 Buddy, in slang
59 Razor brand
60 Third-largest island of the Philippines
61 Snack, or a dentist's request
62 Spotted
63 Histories
64 Goes out with
65 Opposite of departure: Abbr, plural

DOWN
1 Swiss ___ (leafy green)
2 "Dig in!"
3 Monetary units of Iran and Oman
4 Der ___ (Adenauer)
5 Mary of "Equal Time"
6 Oldsmobile model
7 Black Friday events
8 Oracle
9 Appliance connector, briefly
10 Introduction, preface
11 Gets the better of, intellectually
12 Ready, __, go!
13 Chicago trains
21 Surgery marks
22 Hangouts for GIs
26 Fill with joy
27 Point ___ National Seashore
28 Puts money (on)
29 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education acronym (sorry too easy)
31 Star student's report card, maybe
32 Sargent's superior
33 Places where tools are kept
34 Word of woe
35 Tic-__
36 Broadcasts
39 Idaho's capital
41 Paper quantity
42 Emerges from an egg
44 Chemistry concentrations
47 Not so good at
48 ___ Antoinette
49 Winged
50 Poetic rhythm
51 Showing more skin
52 Actors Arkin and Alda
54 Recedes
55 Tabula ___
56 Egyptian snake
57 Sheep sound

On new schedules, food options and accommodations in dining halls

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

Dining looks different this semester. In an email to students on Aug. 16, Executive Director of Food Service Operations Dan Detora announced several changes to the dining system beginning this fall. According to the email, changes were made in response to student input, usage trends and to optimize staffing resources.

As an Editorial Board, we welcome some of these changes and reluctantly accept others, recognizing that trade-offs must be made due to the college's chronic staffing shortages. Looking toward the future, however, there is room for more formal student input, increasing flexibility for students with dietary restrictions and offering healthier options. We also note that the changes have negatively impacted student culture and the social atmosphere surrounding dining.

Perhaps the most noticeable change in the dining structure is to Ross' hours and offerings. Ross is now serving food continuously from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., a continental breakfast in the morning — leaving hot breakfast up to Proctor — and "pub food favorites" for lunch and dinner. Pizza, burgers, hot dogs and fried chicken are not necessarily appealing to every student or for every meal. Many students who typically prefer Ross' open, bright atmosphere have fled to Proctor or Atwater instead, likely contributing to the longer lines we have seen in both places since the beginning of the semester.

We understand, though, that when a dining hall expands its hours, it must cut back in other ways. Serving continuously throughout the day means less time to prepare food, and it would require a much larger staff to both prepare more labor-intensive food options and to serve them all day long. Ross being open all day, albeit with perhaps less exciting options, means that students in class during the traditional lunch hours can get a meal between the hours of 2 to 4:30 p.m., a much needed change. Previously, students who couldn't eat lunch between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. were left buying food or not eating altogether, which felt like an unfair reality given that the unlimited meal plan is required for all students living on campus.

The mandatory meal plan with unlimited "swipes" has long been a reality at Middlebury, and it has its merits. Barring extenuating circumstances, students living on campus must pay for the meal plan, as it's lumped in with room and board. This requirement allows students to eat as much as they want and to not have to decide in advance the number of "meal swipes" they want to purchase for the semester. We believe the unlimited swipes structure helps foster a more equitable dining culture in which food intake does not depend on socioeconomic status. Dining halls also serve as a key part of the social environment at Middlebury; a mandatory, unlimited meal plan lends itself to a more community-oriented campus environment.

Still, a mandatory meal plan comes with its downsides, especially for students with dietary restrictions or allergies. Vegan and vegetarian students may find it difficult to piece together a substantial meal, particularly when choosing from the Ross pub food options. The situation is even more complicated for students with allergies to nuts, lactose or gluten. The dining hall generally does a good job separating foods and providing clear ingredient lists for all dishes. Staff are also willing to prepare alternative options for students when requested, such as gluten-free pasta. Nonetheless, for students that still find navigating the dining hall with allergies or dietary restrictions challenging, or have other accessibility concerns, the school should be more willing to help them get ADA accommodations or create a meal plan suitable to their needs. The new dining hall changes and limited variety of food have made the need for greater flexibility for these students even more apparent.

Large-scale changes like the recent update to the dining system also have implications for the dining hall culture and social atmosphere. Proctor used to be a relatively intimate, cozy and relaxed dining hall where students could be seen studying and eating alone or with a small group of friends. Now that it is the only dining hall with hot breakfast, substantially more students flock to Proctor for all meals, but specifically in the mornings, increasing pressure on staff. One board member noted that Proctor in the morning during the first week of classes felt like "an Atwater party with the lights on where no one's had their coffee yet." Ross and Atwater's larger tables and more open spaces continue to cater to large groups of students, such as sports teams after practices.

Equally important to dining culture on campus is the swapping of the locations between Crossroads Café and Wilson Café. It made sense when Crossroads resided in McCullough, our quasi-student center. While the old Crossroads had plenty of seating, loud music and a chill study environment, it is now oddly quiet as some students who traditionally frequented the old more studious Wilson Café migrated to its new McCullough location. Staff members and STEM students have welcomed the new BiHall kiosk, as there used to be no way to get a snack on that corner of campus except for the vending machine. While these changes are difficult trade-offs made to balance staffing concerns with student preferences, we still want to encourage the college to consider how its decisions impact the day to day realities of student life.

We are aware that Middlebury has been struggling to fill vacant dining services positions for multiple years, while also feeding an over-enrolled student body. In the Aug. 16 email, Detora did not portray the changes to the dining system as exciting, but rather as necessary from a staffing perspective. We understand these staffing limitations, but argue that the extent to which student input was gathered before implementing these changes is questionable. In an email response to a student obtained by The Campus, Detora wrote "I agree that we should have had some student involvement," suggesting that student opinion was not actually considered in the first place beyond catering to some vague feedback about students' lunch hour scheduling difficulties and desire for more pizza. We believe the college should standardize this process of providing input on issues such as the dining halls to increase the reliability of the feedback and facilitate mutual trust between students and the administration.

We appreciate the extended hours at Ross and understand the fact that pub food, however monotonous some students may find it, is a necessary byproduct of that change. From the timing and tone of Detora's August email, these changes seemed to have been made at the last possible minute. Nonetheless, better foresight would have allowed more student input and better accomodation of special dietary needs in implementing these changes.

We thank dining services for trying to fix the problems of long lines and limited hours. As we look to the future, whether that is tomorrow's menu, next semester's dining hall hours or long-term reforms to the accommodations Middlebury provides students with specific dietary restrictions, we hope the college will prioritize student input for its decision-making process as our community continues to live, study and eat together.

AMIDST THE DEVASTATION, VERMONTERS HELD ONTO SIGNS OF HOPE

AFTER THE FLOOD

Op-Ed

Libby Scaperotta *is a member of the class of 2023.5 and an opinions editor for The Campus.*

In the span of twelve years, I have seen two catastrophic flooding events in Vermont: Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 and the flooding of this past summer in 2023. Both floods were incredibly devastating, and much of the recovery efforts were made possible by the strength of local communities and the amazing work of volunteers.

This July, I was traveling out of the country when I received the alarming text from my mom: "We are dry here. Flooding in a lot of VT." Thousands of miles away in a completely different time zone, I opened my phone to see images of the floodwaters across the state and felt instantly transported back to Irene twelve years ago.

In late August of 2011, in the few days before Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont, I was ten years old and about to start my last year of elementary school. I remember being really nervous about how the incoming hurricane-turned-tropical storm might affect my first week of fifth grade. In the days soon after, Tropical Storm Irene tragically flooded Vermont, including the small central valley I call home, in ways I thought unimaginable. I saw roads washed out, crops destroyed, homes damaged and lives harshly disrupted. The physical destruction was unlike anything I'd ever witnessed before. The disaster wreaked havoc on communities all over the state, leaving many distraught and needing to rebuild.

Yet the community stood strong through the flood's destruction, in large part due to the help of volunteers. Strangers drove impressive distances to drop off clothing, cleaning supplies, tools or food donations.

After the 2011 flood, my entire notion of the river changed. As a kid before the flood, I saw the river that ran through the valley as one of my favorite pastimes, as a place to spend summer days with family. It was a place that I saw my community gather around; children and adults swam in the brisk water or admired its beauty, creating fond memories. But after 2011, the river came to mean something else entirely. Not only were its sediment floor and banks completely changed, shifting the physical areas I once knew, but the power of its raging waters was something I could never forget.

Yet the community stood strong through the flood's destruction, in large part due to the help of volunteers. Strangers drove impressive distances to drop off clothing, cleaning supplies, tools or food donations. Even individuals across the country sent in donations and support via mail.

I volunteered at the flood relief center in my time off from school with my mom, spending the days making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for volunteers and directing donation drop-offs.

I will never forget the sense of community that I felt during this time and what a significant difference the volunteers made in flood relief efforts.

As many of you may have heard, more extreme flooding events ravaged the state this summer. I had hoped that I would never see this happen again so soon. July's flooding was incredibly damaging to many communities and businesses across Vermont. Farmers lost huge portions of their crops after an already tough growing season. Many businesses and homes were destroyed, forever altering the lives of many Vermonters.

This summer, volunteers again came from across the state to help wherever they could. Flood relief benefits and fundraisers began popping up all over the state. These events and grassroots volunteer efforts help bring communities and Vermonters together in a time of disaster and support those in need.

Although the flooding events occurred mid-summer, many are still reeling from the ramifications. In many places, help is still needed.

With this op-ed, I hope you all, as Vermont students, consider helping where you can if you are able. Flood relief events and fundraisers are still happening all over the state. Supporting these efforts can look like a myriad of things, such as attending one of many benefit concerts, buying a four-pack of beer with donated profits (all funds raised from Vermont Strong Pale Ale will be donated to the Vermont Community Foundation's VT Flood Response and Recovery Fund 2023) or simply donating to recovery efforts.

The most important part about working with flood relief efforts is listening to where help is needed. But, as a start, get involved with those you know in the local community to see where that is. An easy way to do that is to further connect yourself with the town of Middlebury and greater Addison County. Consider buying groceries and produce from local farmers, or supporting these farmers directly by volunteering or donating. Vermont Public also has a great directory to reference for how to get involved with flood relief efforts.

In my experience, in the small towns of Vermont, people look out for each other. Here, "community" extends from the concrete definition of a group of people to more of a feeling. "Community" is when, in times of disaster, strangers selflessly offer their time, resources and help to others. Community is feeling like you aren't alone. It is feeling safe and supported. Community is giving back. The community here is incredibly special, and as students we all have the opportunity to get involved and look out for our neighbors that were impacted by the floods.

Earlier this summer, I was driving home and saw a handwritten sign on the side of the road that I think sums up the importance of volunteering to our community. The sign read along these lines: "Thank you volunteers. You give us hope."

Communities in Vermont are incredibly strong, and when disasters like this strike, volunteers always bring hope. I hope that, if you are able, you will consider taking the steps to be a part of the larger Vermont community and help.

In defense of the English major

Op-Ed

Sarah Miller *is a member of the class of 2024 and an Editor at Large for The Campus.*

Last Wednesday, Middlebury attempted to eliminate the creative nonfiction position from the English department. Thanks to the efforts of faculty, students and staff, the position will remain on a conditional basis, but the college's actions reflect a concerning set of shifting priorities for an institution that professes to "inspire our undergraduates to grapple with challenging questions about themselves and the world," and "foster the inquiry, equity, and agency necessary for them to practice ethical citizenship at home and far beyond our Vermont campus." Middlebury's attack on the Creative Writing Program is but one piece in a larger national picture, in which the humanities face a concentrated rollback.

This winter, The New Yorker published a searing indictment of the state of the American English major. The statistics in the piece are alarming: in the past decade, the study of English and History at the collegiate level has declined by a full third, while humanities enrollment overall has declined by 17 percent. The trends of this decade are so alarming because they represent a genuine sea change; for the first time in history, the number of graduating English majors no longer correlates with the health of the economy, meaning that even when the economy began to recover after the 2008 recession, the number of English majors continued to decline.

At the time I read the article, it could not have felt less like my reality. I was studying English at Trinity College, Dublin, one of the oldest universities in the Western world, and one which prides itself on the strength of its English department. For the first time in my life, I was at a university where, when I told people I studied English, instead of asking me why or assuming I must be considering law school, people commended me. When I walked across the same stones as Wilde, Stoker, Beckett and Rooney (just to name a few), how could I doubt the vitality of my major for a moment?

Then I returned home.

I chose to study abroad at Trinity College Dublin for the same reason I chose to attend Middlebury. Since the age of eighteen, I have known I wanted to be a writer. When I looked at colleges, I looked first to the strength of their English and Creative Writing programs. Schools were eliminated from my list if I felt their Creative Writing program to be too meager. I did not want to enroll in a school where creative writing was a supplementary concern. I wanted to land in a place where the study of creative writing and English were at the heart of the academic project.

For a long time, I thought Middlebury was such a place.

After all, where better to write prose than in the shadows of Frost's green mountains and the vaunted Bread Loaf?

When I visited Middlebury, I sat in on an English class. By a stroke of coincidence, the students were reading James Joyce's Dubliners. As the sun shone through the full windows of the Axinn classroom, I fell in love, enraptured by the intelligent observations of the professor and his students, and by all of Middlebury's promises that might lie before me.

And it has fulfilled many of those promises. I have been lucky to learn from some of the finest and most accomplished professors in the field, my fellow students delight me with their enthusiasm and the strength of their analysis, and my time as a reader and an intern with The New England Review is an opportunity for which I will be grateful for the rest of my life.

However, the strength of the English department students and faculty cannot compensate for the lack of sufficient institutional support.

The ethical importance of creative nonfiction has never been more self-evident. Contemporary memoirists like Cathy Park Hong and Hua Hsu produced stunning works that refined the possibilities of the genre and our notions of empathy. Without journalists such as Ronan Farrow and Patrick Radden Keefe, so much colossal tragedy might remain opaque. This is to say nothing of the tremendous essayists at work at The New Yorker and The Atlantic or the countless writers that taught themselves to write at the foot of Joan Didion.

For any school that aims to take itself seriously as an intellectual heavyweight, eliminating creative nonfiction is a destructive decision. For Middlebury, it is an identity crisis. Creative writing has been central to Middlebury's curriculum for decades. For 98 years, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference has hosted esteemed and aspiring nonfiction writers. And for 223 years, Middlebury has taught English. This is a genealogy more far-reaching than many of the rapidly expanding STEM departments at Middlebury can boast.

If an institution will not allocate sufficient money to one of its most historically prestigious departments then can it still be said to have the liberal arts, and even education itself, in mind?

There are facts that I can offer you. Humanities majors are more likely to hold leadership positions in the workforce, John Legend and Sally Ride were English majors, reading fiction is linked to higher empathy rates and social intelligence, and AI might write novels of code but it will never write Hamlet.

But this is the parlance of the anti-humanities, of trying to argue by way of "objectivity" when what I want to speak to you of is the soul.

In their course of study, English majors embark on rigorous academic interrogations while also attending to the ripples of feeling in a comma or a line of prose. Reading and writing have made me a more porous individual. Not only have I become more sensitive to the beauty of the written world, but also to the affecting simplicity of the natural world. I see poetry in Faulkner's prose just as much as I see it in the soft light that falls on campus right before sunset.

While it would be remiss for me to imply all Middebury students would benefit from a career in creative writing, I maintain there is something essential to the discipline that moves the soul of the English major as well as the Biology major. I know this because the waitlists for my creative writing courses are always packed not only by the usual suspects, but also by students who have never written creatively and feel compelled to try and give word to the story that lives within each of us.

Under the new terms set by Middlebury, the English department has two years to propose a long-term inclusion of the creative nonfiction position. I implore the college to be responsive to creative nonfiction's essential benefit; failing to invest in creative nonfiction will deprive prospective writers and prospective consultants of an essential opportunity to both articulate their inner selves and to dream.

The strength and history of Middlebury's creative writing program should cement it as one of the premier programs in the country. To axe a central facet of the department, whose budget should frankly be doubled, is not only a deep betrayal of the arts, but also of the college's intellectual commitment.

And the institution should expect the next great crop of writers to apply elsewhere.

MONTEREY MOMENTS: REFLECTIONS FROM MY COASTS AND CLIMATE SEMESTER

Op-Ed

Finn Warner *is a member of the class of 2024.5.*

FINN WARNER

SUNSET OVER THE PACIFIC FROM ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK, BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA.

When dawn broke over the Santa Lucia Mountains, I could hear the waves breaking against the cliffs of the Big Sur coastline as the stars began to fade away. As the sun started to bring pastels to the sky, bringing out the mountains' contours, I sat up on my sleeping pad to be confronted by the vastness of the dark blue Pacific. The weather held, revealing a welcome sight of sun in between the season's atmospheric rivers that rendered most of Big Sur inaccessible through the semester. My classmate and I were the only people on the trail that day. Our trip took us through the low brush and wildflowers that littered open hillsides and across the path of a bobcat on the prowl. It was a 40-minute drive back to campus, just in time to catch the Sunday pickup soccer game at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS).

Coming from Colorado, I originally saw Monterey as just part of the endless southern California sun and fun. I quickly discovered that a warm day would peak at a mild 70 degrees, and some sunshine was in fact a luxury throughout the year. The palm trees of my visions were replaced by the endemic Monterey cyprus and giant redwoods that soak up the fog and clouds. The Monterey coastline is beautifully jagged and intense. Storms tear at the rocks and sand, and sea otters are far more commonplace than I ever expected. Monterey has an abundance of life and is a wonderful change of pace from the intensity of school, social buzz and snow in Middlebury.

This past spring, the Coasts and Climate semester that Monterey hosts had only four students, including myself. I harbored reservations about the group dynamics that this would create with one history major, one computer science major and two economics majors. But throughout the semester we grew closer over beach sunsets and Chipotle.

The Coasts and Climate Semester is marketed as an environmental studies program, but it fulfills far more than the "crunchy Feb" trope that dominates the Environmental Studies program at the Vermont campus. I was the only student in the course with any background in environmental science. Two of my required courses focused on the California environmental experience. The courses were catered to engage the personal and academic backgrounds of my non-environmental science classmates.

The Middlebury Institute gave me the opportunity to take a class with the Environmental Policy and Management students, and I became part of their program. I became a poor addition to their weekly trivia team and joined their Friday Happy hours hosted by the faculty in the garden. The classroom time was interesting and gave me the opportunity to take classes unlike any I could take at Middlebury. The graduate school pedagogy of learning by doing is baked into the experience; my experiences of tide pooling to learn about invasive species and transcribing an 1830s whaling logbook emphasized exploration.

Through an independent study with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Monterey gave me the opportunity to do a lot of hands-on learning. I was able to run an economics research project on salmon conservation in California out of the research lab in Santa Cruz. Most days spent in the office ended with surfing at Steamer Lane, the famed Santa Cruz surf break. Working with NOAA gave me the opportunity to spend a day on a research vessel with scientists doing marine acoustics research. Most of the outing was spent 200 miles from the shore, looking for buoys and fighting sea sickness. On our way offshore, we were in a parade of breaching gray and humpback whales. Risso's dolphins shimmered underneath the boat as they flew around the water — not a bad start to spring break. I am not sure I will ever have a learning experience akin to my experience in Monterey again during my academic career. Learning in Monterey extends far past the walls of the classroom. I learned more about myself in this program than I ever have through any combination of essays, exams and discussions.

Outside of the classroom I had the opportunity to develop my own interests and introduce them to my cohort. Monterey was an amazing launchpad for exploring the rest of California — in a mere couple of hours I could reach San Francisco to the north and Los Angeles to the south south by the spectacular coastal Highway One. I was able to take my classmate on her first camping trip in Santa Barbara. After a day of surfing and walking around the city, we drove up a suburban road passing extravagant homes built into the contours of the mountainside to find our scenic campsite. She was a good sport but spent most of the night sleeping in the passenger seat of the car.

Monterey is knowing that a day of classes is never just another day in the office. It is when a surfing session goes wrong and you show up to trivia with your professor with nine new stitches in your face. It is learning how to cook really, really good brussel sprouts. It is learning that 25 year olds claim to be "zillenials" without knowing what rizz means.

Monterey will never be captured in its entirety in this article. I left out field trips, surfing, wildlife, bars, hiking, exploring, coffee and gin. Stopping at the bakery on the way to class on a cold morning, the thrill of jumping in the freezing water when the surf is good, s'mores on the beach as the sun sets with friends and the rush outdoors when the sun breaks through the clouds. There is a lot more I would love to say about Monterey, but I am limited to the space on a newspaper page. This place will always hold a special place in my heart.

The Middlebury Campus

EDITOR IN CHIEF
*Maggie Reynolds **
MANAGING EDITORS
*Katie Futterman **
*Ryan McElroy **
BUSINESS DIRECTOR
Terry Luongo
EDITORIAL BOARD DIRECTOR
*Hannah Sayre **
DIGITAL DIRECTOR
Sheila Lam
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Frannie Newman
DESIGN DIRECTOR
*Olivia Kilborn **
EDITORS AT LARGE
*Charlie Keohane **
*Tejas Srinivasan **
*Sarah Miller **
*Sophia McDermott-Hughes **
NEWS DESK
*Susanna Schatz *†*
Orly Berke
Olivia Mueller
Daniza Tazabekova
William Reed
LOCAL DESK
*Julia Pepper *†*
Emily Hogan
Madeleine Kaptein
Mandy Berghela
OPINIONS DESK
*Libby Scaperotta *†*
Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri
Bella Burke
Claire Shapiro
ARTS & CULTURE DESK
*Maggie Bryan *†*
Jack Torpey
Tulip Larson
Cadi Klepeis
SPORTS DESK
Charles Crounse†*
Lexi Linafelter
Ryan Heinzerling
Owen Park
MULTIMEDIA DESK
Devin Santikarma
PHOTO DESK
Charlie Deichman-Caswell
VISUALS DESK
Thea Volpp
Skiles Roberts-Salvador
ONLINE EDITORS
Changchang Ma
Claire Yang
LAYOUT EDITORS
Adelle MacDowell
Benji Sindell
Caroline Harding
Eliza Bernene
Emily Hogan
Katherine Michaelson
COMMUNICATIONS
Benji Sindell
Jake Gilbert
Mari Nakamura
COPY EDITORS
Cole Chaudhari
Sabrina Salam

**Member of Editorial Board*
† Senior Editor

The Campus reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks; unwarranted requests for anonymity.

More information about the paper and its submission policies can be found online at www.middleburycampus.com.

The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less.

@middleburycampus

@middcampus

The Middlebury Campus

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK: BEN HUGHES '27

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Senior Sports Editor

TOM NEVINS / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Rookie of the Week, where we sit down weekly with a first year student who has been making a big impact on their varsity team at Middlebury. This week, The Campus had the chance to chat with Benjamin Hughes '27, a runner for men's cross country. Hailing from San Marino, Calif., Hughes has made a big splash since joining the Panthers, winning both of his first two races to kick off the season.

Charles Crounse: Let's start off with a question I'm sure you've heard before. What drew you to Middlebury?

Benjamin Hughes: I was looking for a small school. I'm from California, so I wanted to get a change of scenery so I felt Middlebury was a good fit. As for athletics, having a team that is super supportive and being able to balance school with sports were both super important. And obviously the location is pretty special.

CC: On that note, how have you adjusted to balancing beginning your collegiate running career and college academics?

BH: It's not easy but it's definitely doable. You might have a little less free time, but you can get everything done. I've been able to get to bed pretty early every night, so if you manage your time well then I think it's pretty easy, though to be fair I've only done one week.

CC: Going back in time a bit, how did you get your start in running?

BH: My parents both started running right around when I was born, so I grew up with them exploring running as a hobby and as a sport. I've always been interested in it but I never did it super competitively until high school. Even then I played baseball my freshman and sophomore years so I didn't start running track until my junior year. I didn't have any thoughts about running in college until probably junior year.

CC: How have you found running here compares to running back home in California?

BH: It's definitely different because you don't have to run on sidewalks here. There's lots of dirt roads and trails which I like so much, so that has been awesome. In the winter I think the cold is going to suck but at least for now it's nice that it's not 100 degrees out. It's been so nice to be out in nature looking at all sorts of different stuff while you're running.

CC: Now that you are running for all three seasons (cross country, indoor track and outdoor track), what is your favorite event?

BH: It's hard, but I'd say my favorite event is the mile in track. But cross country has been growing on me. I had a pretty good senior season in high school and then it started off pretty well here.

CC: You've raced twice so far this fall. You've won both of them so congrats on that. Did you expect your season to start like this?

BH: I wouldn't say so. Both these races were prescribed workout efforts, so we weren't going full gas. I expected to feel pretty good since we weren't going all out but I didn't expect to win since our team is very good.

CC: Do you have any pre-race rituals or superstitions?

BH: I wouldn't say there's anything big. I try to get breakfast in and take my mind off the racing. One weird thing is that I cannot listen to Drake before races because I think Drake makes you run slow. I do like to listen to other music to get amped up. I've been listening to a lot of Central Cee recently. About an hour before the race I like to just talk to people about things that aren't related to running because that takes the nerves away.

CC: Looking ahead to the rest of the season, what do you hope to achieve?

BH: Given that both of these races so far have been workout efforts, I'm excited to properly race all out. Two weeks from now we're going down to Pennsylvania and the season will start to get really serious with a lot of good schools running there. I guess my goals for the season would be to make nationals as a team, be in the seven that runs at nationals, and it would be cool to get down to a low twenty five [minute range] for time.

CC: Last question: Since arriving on campus, what has been your favorite thing about the team and/or about Middlebury generally?

BH: I would say that it's having a great group of people around me. Being on the team, you have friends and people who check up on you as soon as you get here. That's been super valuable as I've transitioned away from living at home to living at college. You have advice about how to tackle almost everything. I think the best part has been having the upperclassmen on the team there to help out.

Editor's Note: This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.

Kelly Ferrero reaches 1,000-career digs as leading libero

By TING CUI
Contributing Writer

It's not often in any sport that a player achieves 1,000 of something, but that's exactly what Kelly Ferrero '23.5 did. Ferrero, a senior captain and starting libero on the Middlebury women's volleyball team, surpassed 1,000-career digs on Sept. 9 in a game against Gettysburg College.

"It was a really exciting moment," Ferrero said of the milestone. "Individual goals and achievements like that do feel a little bit strange to celebrate in a team sport, but it's really a reflection of how the team is doing in general that we're able to reach that."

A "dig" in volleyball refers to a defensive maneuver known as a pass, skillfully executed to prevent the ball from making contact with the ground following an opponent's offensive assault. The move helps a team's defense, allowing the players to successfully return an attack shot and maintain possession of the ball.

"It's cool that there's an opportunity for those of us that aren't getting kills, that there's something we can celebrate too as defense players," Ferrero told The Campus.

Ferrero started playing volleyball in fifth grade, after unsuccessful experiences with other sports. "I was never good at sports, I'm not very athletic, and nothing clicked for me ever. My school in fifth grade started to have a volleyball team and my mom actually forced me to do it," she recalled. "I've loved volleyball so much that I've stayed with it for 12 years."

Ferrero began her progression towards 1,000 digs in the fall of 2019 as a hopeful first-year. She spent her debut season eagerly awaiting the opportunity to ascend to the starter role. As a defensive specialist, assuming the role of libero means more than just sporting a different colored jersey. The "quarterback" of the defense, liberos seldom leave the floor and account for a significant portion of a team's defensive stockpile. Well-positioned to compete for the coveted libero position entering her sophomore year, Ferrero was forced to wait another year when the Covid-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 season.

During this time, Ferrero made the decision to take a leave of absence in the spring of 2021. Reflecting on her return to the team in the fall of 2021, Ferrero said she faced stiff competition in trying to secure the libero position, but she persevered and has held on to the role ever since.

Originally intended to graduate in May of 2023, Ferrero's leave in the spring of 2021 shifted her academic timeline back a semester. Now, she embarks on her fourth season as a Super Senior Feb.

"I feel really lucky to have come back for a fourth season. Mostly because I can be with the team for an extra year and finish up my eligibility, but also it allowed that opportunity for me to hit that individual milestone that I wouldn't have been able to do in just three seasons," Ferrero said.

Looking ahead to the rest of her final season with the team, Ferrero said she doesn't have any individual goals for herself other than to support her teammates as much as she can defensively.

"I'm not the one scoring points, so it's my job to help make everyone else's job easier," she said. "All of my teammates are doing so many different things and have so many things to worry about, and essentially I have one job and that's pass the ball and do that well. Whatever I can do to make everyone else's game a little easier is what I will do."

After her last season, Ferrero will miss the supportive culture on her team. Together with her teammates, Ferrero said she has worked hard to cultivate a competitive practice culture as well as mutual respect and trust during games.

"Having that big group of people that I trust no matter what, that I know always has my back — even if we're competing hard with each other in practice — it's a really special thing and not something I'm probably going to experience again in my life," Ferrero added.

Editor's note: Lexi Linafelter '24 is a sports editor and a captain of the women's volleyball team.

TASHI SHERPA/ THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Seven Questions with Kyle Nilsson ’25, mens soccer

Kyle Nilsson ‘25 controls the ball during the Panthers’ 1-1 draw with Amherst.

Will C Images / Courtesy Photo

By HAMILTON SMITH
Contributing Writer

Kyle Nilsson ’25 from San Francisco, Calif. is competing in his third season on the men’s soccer team. In this installment of Seven Questions, Nilsson discusses his favorite memories on the team, his preferred pre-game music and his professional soccer role models.

Hamilton Smith: Did you always know that you wanted to play soccer in college?

Kyle Nilsson: I played a lot of competitive sports over my life, which boiled down to three serious competitive opportunities: tennis, ski racing and soccer. I liked the team aspect and collaboration involved in soccer, so I pursued playing for SVSA [Silicon Valley Soccer Academy], which kicked off wanting to extend my soccer career further into college.

HS: Set the scene of your ideal weather conditions and time of day for a match.

KN: I would say 65 to 70 degrees under the lights, a 7:30 p.m. start. There is something about playing under the lights that unlocks a new level of happiness.

HS: What would you say is your biggest weakness as a player?

KN: I would say converting that final step in the attacking third of the pitch. I do a great job supporting and leading the attack to get in front of the goal but forget that final run or shoot just wide of the goal.

HS: What is your favorite memory on the Middlebury soccer team?

KN: Definitely when [my teammates] Eujin Chae, Jonathan Summerow and I hosted a pickup tournament our freshman spring to support a charity called Grassroots Soccer. We ended up having over 60 participants and raising over [$6,000] for the organization. Our entire team showed up, and it was great to celebrate the community by playing the sport that we love.

HS: Who is your favorite professional soccer player, and why?

KN: Jordan Morris has been my favorite. He plays with type 1 diabetes, which my brother also lives with. Jordan has shown the world that his condition does not define him, and he proves every time he steps on the pitch that he deserves to be there. My brother plays incredibly competitive high school water polo, and he too shows the world that he can compete at [a high] level despite playing with a life-threatening disease.

HS: If you could choose a song to play every time you step on the field, what song would you choose?

KN: We are One [(Ole Ola)] by Pitbull. It brings back memories of watching the 2014 World Cup, which was my favorite era of soccer to watch. Such amazing players, such amazing vibes, such a demonstration of the beauty of soccer.

HS: Who is your greatest role model in soccer?

KN: Coaches Elias, Potter, Conrad and Emmett have shown me that soccer is so much more than just a sport. It’s a family, a community, a network and a method which brings us together. I’ve learned through playing with my teammates that in everything we do, in all the hours we train, in all the games we fight in, we ultimately grow and learn as [athletes].

Editor’s Note: This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity

the knoll
is turning
est. 20 2003
COME CELEBRATE WITH US
FALL FAMILY WEEKEND
SEPT. 30 - OCT. 1
Full details at go/knollhours
Volunteer Hours – 9/29
Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival – 9/30
20th Anthology Book Release Celebration & Readings – 10/1
Poetry Workshop featuring Julia Alvarez – 10/1
open to the public, all are welcome

DEVIN SANTIKARMA / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

GETTING UP, FALLING DOWN, AND DOING IT ALL OVER AGAIN

A comprehensive look at Middlebury's skateboard scene

By DEVIN SANTIKARMA
Photojournalist

MAX LYONS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The thunderous rolls of tiny urethane wheels down Middlebury's hills can be heard from dorm room windows across campus at virtually any time of day. Balancing precariously on top of an eight inch wide wooden plank while going down rails and jumping down stairs whose architects never envisioned them to be used in such a manner, regular objects are turned into obstacles of affirmation on a daily basis at Middlebury College.

Skateboarding, a newly recognized Olympic sport that was born in empty swimming pools of sunny California, has roots in hilly, rural Middlebury that extend almost 40 years. Just as Vermont's own Jake Burton birthed modern snowboarding, a pastime banned at ski resorts until the 90s, Middlebury alumni Rick Holzman recounted to The Campus the original four wheeled pioneers of the 80's.

"People thought it was a fad," recalled Holzman, one of six skaters from the town and college collectively in 1984, one year before Marty McFly's hoverboard scene appeared in "Back To The Future." With help from his professor, Holzman constructed obstacles such as half pipes and quarter pipes to soar to new heights.

"Everyone knew who we were just because nobody else skated," Holzman said.

Holzman and his crew would travel hours to compete in skateboarding "vert" contests — a style of skating which retired professional skateboarder Tony Hawk brought to prominence. Driving as far as Rhode Island or Montreal just to skate a stranger's backyard halfpipe or barn DIY skatepark, Holzman remembered a long gone era of the sport when Vans were strictly skateboarding shoes and you couldn't buy skateboards from the mall.

Now, skateboarding is more international than ever, with Japan and Brazil producing some of the talent that won medals at skateboarding's most global platform yet, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The dynamics of the skateboarding scene at Middlebury reflect a diverse range of skaters who come from different backgrounds, all brought together by a wooden toy with wheels, even if their styles may be different. "Skateboarding kinda brings people together from all different walks of campus life over a super simple pleasure of hitting a stair set or using the manny pad," according to Sam Hale Schneiderhan '25.

For those unfamiliar with skateboard lingo, manuals, or "wheelies" are when the board is balanced on one set of wheels.

Ivo Verzone '23.5, a longboard freestyle dancer (think tricks, ballerina-esque spins, and shuffling footwork but balancing and rolling on a long, flexy board) brings a unique global style to skateboarding on campus — that is, of course, when he isn't sending flips off jumps at the Snow Bowl as a member of ski patrol. "The culture of longboard dancing is very beginner friendly," he told The Campus.

Several spots on campus are of particular importance to skateboarders for different reasons. Right outside of Proctor Dining Hall is a major spot for skaters to convene as the wide, smooth road provides the perfect texture for landing kickflips and the stairs are an obstacle with enough runway to jump down. Forest basement is another space that has been used by skateboarders as an indoor refuge from Vermont's icy temperatures and salt-caked sidewalks, both of which are natural enemies to skateboards (salt can get stuck in the bearings of wheels and cold temperatures can freeze the bushings that make the trucks of the skateboard turn).

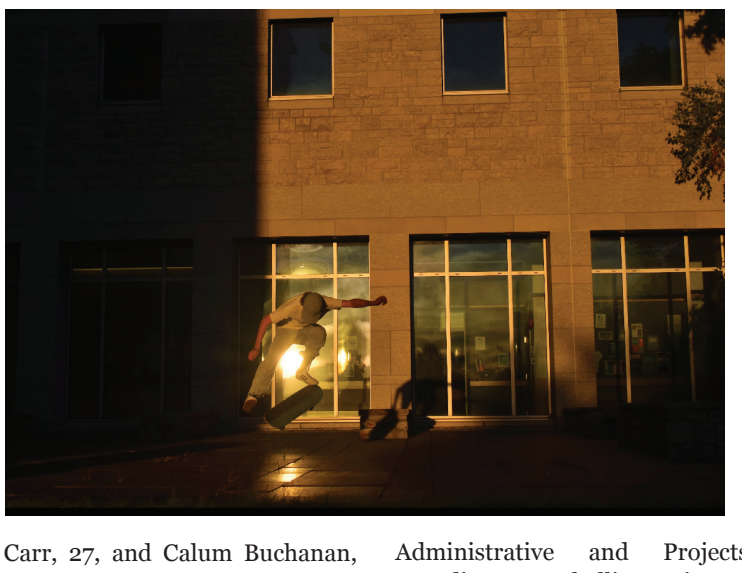
On any given warm day, in a place where warm days are rarely given, skateboarders will slap their boards on the ground as a gesture of applause when they land a trick or engage in friendly competition with games of S.K.A.T.E — akin to H.O.R.S.E. in basketball — in which players take turns performing tricks.

Despite Middlebury's campus being home to a treasure trove of skate spots, some skateboarders noted that skateboarding alone in public places like Proctor Dining Hall can result in stares, especially for an activity that is very much a public display of trial and error.

"It can feel like being in a zoo," Lucas Dulitzky Gilman '26.5 said. "If you skate here, everybody knows you do. It's not like a sport only played on a field, you're falling over and over again on the most public space on campus so your identity becomes attached to just skateboarding"

Other skaters agreed about the vulnerable aspects of the activity and its sometimes negative reception.

"It's a male-dominated sport. It can be very intimate to skate and be expressive with your body," Kim Aranda '23.5 said, who recalled a story of being followed around by a car of men while skateboarding on campus, an experience that made Aranda feel "watched and unsafe."



Skateboarding in groups seems to bring a sense of community and safety that creates a more welcoming space for the activity, even if it can appear intimidating from an outside perspective.

Middlebury's campus is not just important to student skaters, but also to the larger skateboarding community. Chris Carr, 27, and Calum Buchanan, 28, are two skateboarders who came to the college recently to film for a full-length skate video — a compilation of skateboarding done in the streets, rather than in skateparks.

"For how small of a town it is, there's a lot of skateboarders," Carr said of the nearest skate mecca, Burlington, where he first came as a college student.

Like Middlebury, Burlington's college population has a major impact on the skateboarding scene, Buchanan said. Various internationally recognized skateboarders have hailed from the Burlington area, including Chris "Cookie" Colbourn, Jordan Maxham and Dave Abair. Middlebury alumni such as Noe Horiwaki '21 have appeared in various films from skateboard companies like Bluecouch New York, and spots around Middlebury have appeared in videos like Colin Hale's "Stuck in Vermont." These videos have collectively accumulated tens of thousands of views on YouTube.

The town of Middlebury has also garnered attention in the local skateboarding community as the potential site for a new Vermont concrete skate park. The Middlebury Skatepark Project is a volunteer-run nonprofit with the goal of bringing a professionally designed skate park to town. The nonprofit's most recent accomplishment was building a halfpipe.

A number of Middlebury students and faculty are connected to the project, many of whom skateboard themselves. C.V. Starr Schools Abroad Administrative and Projects Coordinator Phyllis Stinson, Associate Professor of Political Science Kemi Fuentes-George and Sociology Post-Doctoral fellow Markus Gerke who teaches courses on subculture and sports all have been involved with the project, with Film and Media Studies media production specialist Ethan Murphy spearheading the campaign.

The Skatepark Project hopes that a skatepark in Middlebury will bring in skaters from all around the state. Since the expansion of a concrete skatepark in Manchester, Vt., Carr explained that skaters have been making the two-and-a-half hour drive from Burlington, Vt. to Manchester to skate the new park.

While the skateboarder population at Middlebury can vary in size from year to year, one thing is clear from both Middlebury's past and future: the culture of skateboarding will always have a home here for anyone who chooses to step on the board.